been an alarming rise in the level of administrative cost (non-plan expenditure) in the eight North-Eastern State. To minimize the effects of this on development activities in these States, the following measures have been taken by the Government:—

(i) Diversion to the extent of 20% of the Normal Central assistance (Plan) is allowed for Non-Plan purposes.

(ii) 30% of Normal Central Assistance is earmarked for Special Category States which include N.E. States.

(iii) 90% of Plan assistance in grant and 10% loan as against 30% grant and 70% loan for other States.

(iv) State contribution of 15%, which is mandatory for the Basic Minimum Services schemes, is not applicable to N.E. States.

(v) 10% of Plan provision of the Central Ministries/Departments has been earmarked for development of N.E. States.

(vi) Over and above the State Plan outlays, which have been increasing over the years, funds are also being sanctioned out of the Central Pool created through transfer of unspent balance of the earmarked outlays of the Central Ministries and Departments meant for development of the N.E. States.

(vii) The North Eastern Council is also engaged in the development of infrastructure in the Region.

(viii) Special dispensation has been made in respect of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) by incorporating minor irrigation projects for the North-Eastern States and allowing 25% of the State's share, as against 33% for others, in availing of Central Loan Assistance.

(ix) The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended liberal grants to the North-Eastern States to cover the Non-Plan revenue gap. This recommendation has been accepted by Government of India.

Additional Calamity Relief Fund to Orissa

*437. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation made to Orissa in 1999-2000 under Calamity Relief Funds;

(b) whether the entire fund has been relased by the Centre;

(c) if so, the details thereof till 31st July, 2000; and

(d) whether Government propose to allocate additional fund during 2000-2001 since the reconstruction work has not been over in the coastal areas, so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) During 1999-2000, an allocation of Rs. 56.67 crore was made to Orissa under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). This included Central share of Rs. 42.50 crore which was fully released to the State. During 2000-01, Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 30.70 crore has been released to the State. During 1999-2000, Rs 828. 15 crore was also released to the State from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for necessary restoration and rehabilitation measures in the wake of cyclones and floods.

Besides, funds are also allocated under different schemes/programmes implemented by various Central Ministries/Departments. The State Government has also sought World Bank assistance for cyclone Reconstruction and Mitigation.

Establishment of Manned Base at Moon

*438. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to establish a manned base at moon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it will be totally indigenous or in collaboration with foreign super powers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Groundnut Production

*439. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICUTLURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the area, production and per hectare groundnut yield in the country during the last two years, year-wise and State-wise;